

# HLF News



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## 2017 Funds to Benefit the Library

In its annual grant to benefit the Humboldt County Library, the Humboldt Library Foundation presented \$65,200 for calendar year 2017.

The grant targets \$20,000 for new books and materials to be circulated system-wide; sets aside \$10,000 in grants to branch libraries to purchase popular titles for local patrons through the McNaughton program; provides \$15,000 for staff development and new programming; \$9,200 for Masterfile researching software; \$8,000 for development of a new library logo and branding strategy and \$1,500 for STEAM products. HLF has also set aside \$1,500 for the Children's Author Festival.

The grants were based on funds raised by HLF in 2016. Contributions come from the ever popular Buy a Book campaign, board and gala sponsorships and gifts given in memory and honor.

County Librarian Vanessa Christman adds, "We're over the moon about the Foundation's latest contributions to the library system and I'm personally ecstatic that the Board recognized the fundamental importance of community outreach. Not every library system is as fortunate as we are to have a Library Foundation that truly encourages new and innovative ideas. We can't thank them enough and we look forward to being out in the community more due to their generosity."

According to HLF president Elizabeth Murguia, "Over the last twenty-one years we have raised over 1.8 million dollars through donations from private individuals, businesses and local organizations. We have made direct grants to the library in excess of \$1,000,000. The remainder of the funds are either donor advised or growing in the HLF Endowment Fund, established to enhance library services for the long term." She noted, "We couldn't have done it without the generous support of the entire community."



From left: Susan O'Connor, Vanessa Christman and Sara Traphagen

## From the President's Desk by *Elizabeth Murguia*



"The books that help you most are those which make you think the most. The hardest way of learning is that of easy reading; but a great book that comes from a great thinker is a ship of thought, deep freighted with truth and beauty."

*Pablo Neruda*

In Oaxaca, Mexico, we came upon a lovely jazz bar with mellow sounds, rich colors and soft lighting. The graphics on the wall spoke from the hearts of Neruda, Jorge Luis Borges and Rufino Tamayo. Then, seduced by a bookshop across the street from the Santa Domingo Cathedral, I looked for a clue to this city of sophistication, beauty and mystery. I needed something that might help reveal its richness -- the celebration of the Virgin Mary and Our Lady of Guadalupe, the abundance of art, food and dance. Mexico palpitates with love of family and pride of place and culture, yet seems framed by an intuitive cynicism and the hard reality that so many must leave for *el norte* to realize their dreams back home.

I found Juan Rulfo's *Pedro Paramo*, a slim volume first published in 1955. Rulfo's book is a precursor to the 'magical realism' of Gabriel Garcia Marquez, Carlos Fuentes and Isabel Allende, among others. It begins as a young man's quest for his father but through storytelling and memory the people of Pedro's village of Coloma come alive, or do they? The present becomes the past as you sojourn into the village of ghosts. Beautifully written, lyrical and haunting, this is a slim volume which requires close attention to unravel the history of the people and their lost hopes. Considered 'one of the masterpieces of 20th-century world literature,' it deepened my understanding.

I also found contemporary writer Pablo Villalobos, whose novel *Quesadillas* is funny, raunchy and wildly satiric; it's about politics, big families and class struggle – or more accurately, the lost class struggle. If you have a Mexican literary itch to scratch, this could be for you.

Of course travel includes airplane flights, and I happily devoured Sarah Vowell's *Lafayette in the Somewhat United States*. If you haven't had the simple pleasure of Vowell's irreverent prose style, do imbibe. Every work is a carefully researched and thoughtful map of our American history. Saturated in national politics, I was ready to escape and learn more about Lafayette, the young French aristocrat inspired by our revolution, who fled the court of Louis the XVI and financed construction of his own ship to travel across the Atlantic to join our fight against the British. He used his influence to become George Washington's loyal lieutenant and achieved hero status. When he made his 'golden' return tour, fifty years later in 1824, 80,000 New Yorkers (out of 120,000) lined the streets to welcome him 'home.' But this is real politics and lots of good history, too. Vowell reflects on the ideals of the American Revolution and takes you to the grim reality of the battlefield; you get an up close look at General Washington and greet the likes of Hamilton, Adams, Jefferson, Franklin and Cornwallis. She's humorous, brilliantly observant and a masterful historian.

But if you're on vacation and want to dip into a mystery, pick up Kate Atkinson's *One Good Turn*. She's a serious writer whom I've mentioned before, but if you haven't enjoyed her mysteries this is the second in a series of four, which feature private detective Jackson Brodie. You won't be disappointed.

While these samples vary wildly, Neruda was my guide. These writers are all 'great thinkers, deep freighted with truth and beauty.'

*"That's the thing about books. They let you travel without moving your feet."*

Jhumpa Lahiri



## Meet Vanessa Christman The New County Librarian

The Humboldt Library Foundation is pleased to introduce you to our new County Librarian, Vanessa Christman.

Vanessa comes to us with a strong record of leadership and a wide range of academic accomplishments and professional experiences, from a masters in Library and Information Sciences to managing rural libraries and an administrative position at the County of Los Angeles public library.

She also now represents Humboldt County as an elected board member of the California Library Association, the chair of the 2017 Conference Committee and the organization's lead grant writer and administrator of CLA's Statewide Leadership Development programs.

Vanessa notes that "My new role at the Humboldt County Library represents an opportunity for me to draw upon my prior experiences in both small, rural library systems and the largest county library system in the United States. Like most predominantly rural systems, HCL has both challenges and opportunities. The more I work with our Foundation, Friends groups and community service organizations the more I am so impressed with the level of community support and engagement with the library. I very much look forward to working with the Foundation in the future."

Vanessa is an exciting, vital and innovative addition to our Humboldt County Library system. Join HLF in giving her a warm Humboldt County welcome.

## Your Library's Latest By Kitty Yancheff, Public Services Librarian

Over the years the Humboldt County Library has had the good fortune of benefitting from the many programs supported and funded through the Institute of Museum of Library Services, including the popular Zip Book Program about which I've written in past newsletters. It is important to understand the impact that elimination of IMLS funding would have upon libraries nationwide and, in particular, the Humboldt County Library System. I would like to share a press release from IMLS Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew and ask that you follow developments as Congress begins work on the 2018 fiscal year budget.

### *Institute of Museum and Library Services Issues Statement on the President's Proposed FY 2018 Budget*

*Thursday, March 16, 2017 - Washington, DC*

*Institute of Museum and Library Services Director Dr. Kathryn K. Matthew released the following statement on the President's proposed FY 2018 budget, which includes elimination of the Institute of Museum and Library Services.*

*Since its inception 20 years ago, the grants and programs administered by the Institute of Museum and Library Services have provided critical support enabling museums and libraries across the country to make a tremendous difference in their communities. The institutions we serve provide vital resources that contribute significantly to Americans' economic development, education, health, and well-being whether by facilitating family learning and catalyzing community change or stimulating economic development through job training and skills development. Our agency's support enables museums and libraries to offer learning experiences for students and families, as well as to increase care for, and access to, the nation's collections that are entrusted to museums and libraries by the public.*

*We've invested in rural and smaller communities by supporting basic infrastructure and by developing libraries as local community hubs for broadband connectivity and digital literacy training — helping hundreds of residents gain job-related skills and, in many cases, find employment. In summary, our grants and programs support libraries and museums as essential contributors to improving Americans' quality of life.*

*More than \$214 million of our \$230 million FY 2016 enacted budget targets museums and libraries directly through our grant programs. This includes \$155 million for library services to every state and territory in the country through a population-based formula grant program.*

*As Congress now begins its work on the FY 2018 budget, our agency will continue to work closely with the Office of Management and Budget. More importantly, we will continue to remain steadfast in our work on behalf of the millions of Americans touched by the services of libraries and museums each day.*

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. IMLS is the primary source of federal support for the nation's [123,000 libraries](#) and [35,000 museums](#). Our mission has been to inspire libraries and museums to advance innovation, lifelong learning, and cultural and civic engagement. For the past 20 years, our grant making, policy development, and research has helped libraries and museums deliver valuable services that make it possible for communities and individuals to thrive. To learn more, visit [www.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov) and follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

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## Buy a Book — Inspire a Child

How many times have you been in awe as you looked into the night sky, out at the ocean or as you walked through a redwood forest?

This year the Humboldt Library Foundation's 'Buy A Book' campaign is targeting the Children's non-fiction collection. While storybooks, chapter books and fiction for children are full of new and timeless titles, the non-fiction selection is out of date and woefully inadequate!

Non-Fiction Children's Collection—  
What's Possible

- New maps, new geography, explore the ocean floor or the highest peak. Kids are naturally curious and with these new materials we can encourage that curiosity.
- Know a child crazy about space travel, the universe, why stars shine in the night? New books will spark the curiosity of the youngest.
- Dinosaurs fascinate and reptiles intrigue, or is it bugs under rocks that interest your youngster? New interactive and colorful materials will provide a greater understanding of the world around us.

### *Did You Know?*

- The library circulated over 667,000 items last year.
- There are currently 101,815 library card holders in Humboldt County; 18,507 are held by youth.

Buy a book today just because you can, or in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Visit our website at [www.humboldtlibraryfoundation.org](http://www.humboldtlibraryfoundation.org) and use the Donate button or mail your check to the Humboldt Library Foundation at PO Box 440, Eureka, CA 95502-0440.

*1 Book ~ \$25*

*2 Books ~ \$50*

*3 Books ~ \$75*

*4 Books ~ \$100*

*Buy A Shelf ~ \$500*



## Reading by Design

By Jeanine Lancaster, Youth Services Librarian

Summer is coming, and children and teens (and adults) will once again be reading and participating in the library's summer reading program. Our theme this year is "Reading by Design," and we'll be highlighting books that explore and explain engineering, construction, jewelry, fashion, art and other fascinating human activities that depend on inspired design.

We have some exciting stories that suit this theme, but we'll be focusing on nonfiction. *This Bridge Will Not Be Gray*, by Dave Eggers, tells the story of how the decision was made to keep the Golden Gate Bridge painted International Orange, the color of the paint used to protect the steel from rust. *California Wildfires: Survival Stories*, by Thomas K. Adamson and Heather Adamson, in addition to showing dramatic pictures of wildfires and firefighters, explains how the design of a house and garden can protect a home from damage. *Sea Otter Rescue*, by Suzi Eszterhas, outlines the care plan designed by the Alaska SeaLife Center to care for orphaned sea otters and raise them to adulthood.

Nonfiction can draw in a nonreader – someone who hasn't yet found books to love, but is enthralled by bridges, wildfires, or cuddly-looking sea otters, for example. Nonfiction book design allows for short reading sessions – readers can grasp captions, sidebars, and charts in a few minutes, and then move on to another section of the book or another activity. The visual elements of nonfiction are appealing to readers and nonreaders alike. Photographs, maps, illustrations and typography can be both beautiful and informative, and viewers who explore them carefully will need to think creatively and critically as they figure out what they are seeing.

Nonfiction books will enliven the summer at the library – join us! Adults who are interested in supporting summer reading can donate funds to HLF Buy A Book to purchase new library materials; bring a child to the library to sign up for summer reading; and/or inspire a young friend by signing up for summer reading as an adult participant.

## Book Blurb

By Pam Cavanagh, HLF Board Member

A title, book jacket, author, a certain life experience, joy or sorrow singly or in combo may entice you to choose a certain book at a particular time. When I first learned Ann Patchett had written *Commonwealth*, I hoped it would be on par with *Bel Canto*. I was not disappointed.

*Commonwealth* is a novel about families whose successes, faults and failings endear the reader toward them. The setting begins in Los Angeles in the 1960s at Franny Keating's christening party where we meet most of the main characters. At the outset, family dynamics take a turn that has profound effects on the six-member Cousins family and four-member Keating family. Ann Patchett creates characters whose varied life experiences in many ways may mirror those of her audience. The story unfolds as the Keating and Cousins family members experience unexpected situations and are forced to deal with them the best they know how. Ann Patchett masterfully meshes plot with characters. I genuinely cared what happened to them all. I found this story truly engaging and was sorry to turn to the last page. One of the characters voiced this meaningful axiom, "...as you get older, there's not as much time as you thought there was going to be."

I loved this story for a number of reasons...the life happenings thrust on the characters mirrored reality. I commiserated with Franny, understood Teresa's exhaustion and sobbed over Cal's death, pulling my son's untimely death center stage more than it hovers in the wings most days. In looking for a single statement that encompasses the novel, I offer this... *Commonwealth* eventually and lovingly embraces three generations who nobly survive life's foibles.

Commonwealth

Ann Patchett, Author

336 pages



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## Library Branches

### **Eureka Main Branch**

1313 3<sup>rd</sup> St. 707-269-1900

### **Arcata Branch**

500 Seventh St. 707-822-5954

### **Blue Lake Branch**

1100 Greenwood Ave. 707-668-4207

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807 Main St. 707-786-9559

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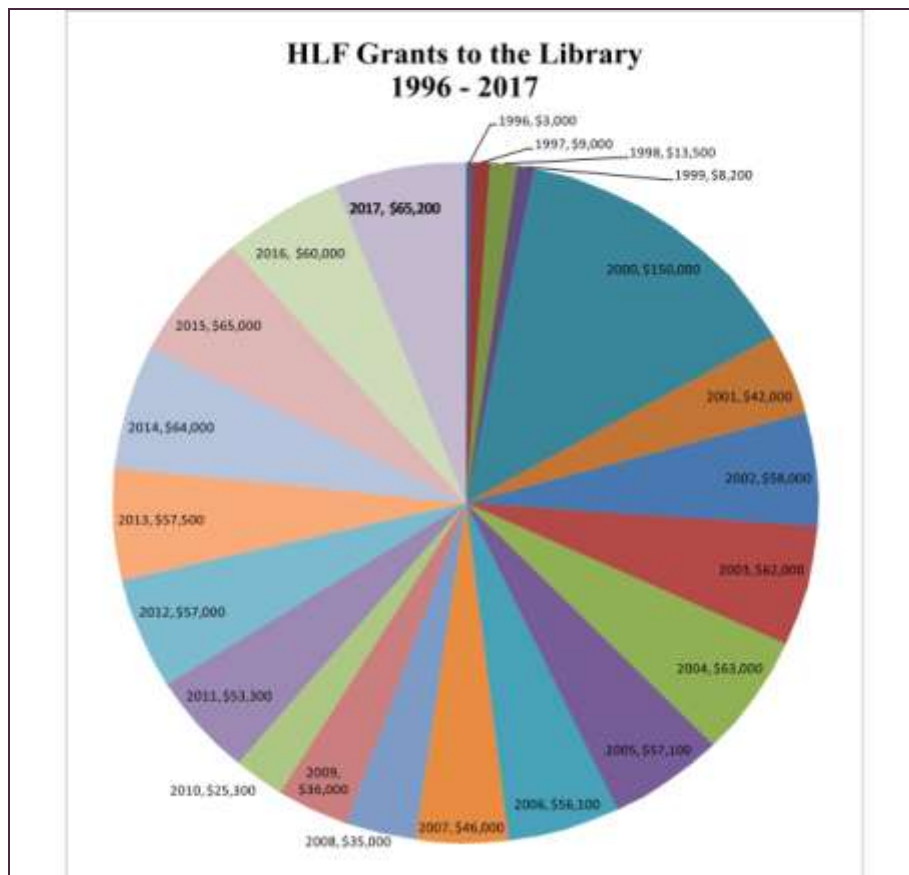
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